

## **Muslim Association of Canada Condemns ISIS Violence**

The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) emphasizes the holistic message of Islam within the context of Canada's diverse society.

MAC believes that the personal development of every individual is the key to real and fruitful involvement in the community. It brings a balanced, constructive and engaged understanding of Islam that aims to inspire Muslims in Canada.

Today, MAC issued the following statement about ISIS:

"We are a Canadian organization and operate only in Canada. However, we cannot ignore global events and fail to speak out against the acts of ISIS which are of serious concern to all Muslims in Canada.

ISIS is not a true expression of Islam. Violence against civilians is unacceptable and a corruption of our beliefs. Human wisdom, let alone divine teachings, abhors such acts.

MAC strongly opposes violence against civilians in any form. We reject any threats against the safety and security of Canadians, and we consider it a civic duty on all to oppose such threats. The safety of Canada and Canadians is the duty not only of the government, but of every Canadian.

We therefore stand against any Canadians becoming involved in ISIS, and we urge all Canadian Muslims to reject ISIS and its violent ideology and practices.

[www.macnet.ca](http://www.macnet.ca)

## Backgrounder: About MAC

The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) is a not-for-profit organization registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a charitable organization. MAC works to strengthen communities through education, religious service and charitable giving since 1997. MAC only operates in Canada.

MAC operates 12 community centers and places of worship across Canada, including locations in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Edmonton. Each year, over 60,000 people attend religious service and participate in social and recreational activities in our mosques and centers. MAC also operates several schools across Canada including three full-time schools in Ottawa, Mississauga and Edmonton. The organization is entrusted with the care and education of 1,400 full-time students and over 4,000 part-time students. MAC operates 190,000 sq. ft of school space and provides employment for 150 full-time and 450 part-time employees. Our full-time schools receive top marks in provincial rankings and ranked amongst the best in their respective cities according to the Fraser institute.

MAC aims to inspire Muslims in communities across Canada to engage in community involvement and service not only within the Muslim community, but with every community, regardless of faith or background. We provide community support and services to tens of thousands of Canadians every year.

We operate 235,000 sq. ft of community space in the form of community centers. MAC operates over 50 programs across the country in numerous schools, campuses and centers including: leadership training programs, BYG and SYG (brothers and sisters) youth groups, high school mentorship programs, and MAC Scouts.

Additionally, MAC runs monthly 'MAC Give' programs across 8 chapters, involving 1145 volunteers, and delivering: blood drives, food drives, and toys drive, monthly soup kitchens, tree planting; and raising funds for causes like MS, Alzheimer's, cancer, arthritis, and breast cancer, and various health advocacy and education programs.

MAC model for change based on developing community resiliency through creating healthy environments for sharing experiences, programs, activities, and providing spaces where friendships can be developed and bonds can be established. Our strategies in achieving that are:

- Building responsive infrastructure to support the spiritual and social needs of the community.
- Provide opportunities for children to learn and grow in safe and stimulating environment.
- Inspire and empower youth to realize their potential.
- Create opportunities for civic engagement, through connect people to each other and enable people to help people through acts of goodness and kindness.
- Celebrating our faith and our achievements as a community.
- Establishing bridges of common purpose with other communities and faith groups.
- Building partnerships with various organizations and NGO's to promote peace and social justice